

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Listing of claims

Claims 1 - 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended). Apparatus for improving the skill of a sports person which comprises two upwardly inclined side by side diverging guideways, a substantially inelastic reciprocating line connected to and freely movable along said guideways, whose length is equal to or greater than [the] a minimum spacing of the guideways and less than [the] a maximum spacing of the guideways and a ball connected to and generally coaxial with said reciprocating line.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein [one] a first end of each of the two guideways is secured or securable at ground level by an anchorage.

Claim 17 (Original). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the anchorage comprises a stake or ground pin.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 17, wherein [the other] a second end of each of the two guideways is attached to a stable support.

Claim 19 (Original). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, wherein means are provided for varying the length of the guideways and/or their angle of inclination above ground level.

Claim 20 (Original). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the reciprocating line is connected or connectable to the guideways through a slide.

Claim 21 (Original). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the slide comprises a hinged clip, ring, rope slide or adjustable loop.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, wherein [one or both] at least one guideway[s] and[/or] the reciprocating [means] line are made of a low friction material.

Claim 23 (Original). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the material comprises a plastic-covered cord or wire.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, wherein [one or both] at least one guideway[s] [are] is made of a substantially rigid material.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 24, wherein [one or both] at least one guideway[s] takes the form of a plastic track which is capable of receiving a runner to which the reciprocating [means] line is connected.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising tensioning means for varying the tension of the [or each] at least one guideway.

Claim 27 (Original). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the tensioning means comprises a reeling mechanism.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising a backboard or target at which [the user of the apparatus may aim when hitting] the ball may be aimed, wherein the backboard or target is positioned in the path of a trajectory of the ball.

Claim 29 (New). Apparatus as claimed in Claim 28, wherein the backboard or target is oriented substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the guideways and located between the diverging guideways at a point along the guideways between the first ends of each of the two guideways where they are secured or securable at ground level by an

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anchorage and the second ends of each of the two guideways where they are attached to a stable support.